



Nov 1, 2023

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

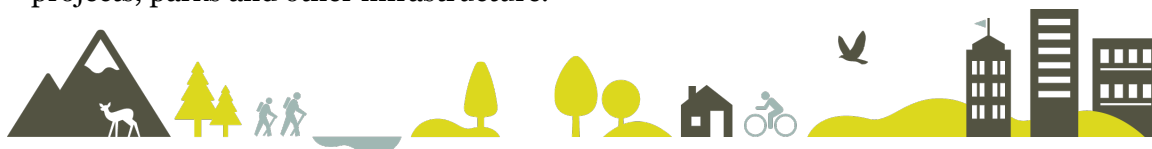
On behalf of The Intertwine Alliance, I'm writing to ask the City of Portland to include a new Bureau of Natural Resources in the city restructuring proposal. Please adopt the Mapps Amendment #1 to restore this bureau to the City of Portland reorganization chart.

The Intertwine Alliance is the Portland region's nature coalition, advocating for parks, trails, greenspace and equitable access to nature. Our 80+ partners are public agencies, nonprofit organizations and private businesses. The Intertwine Alliance mobilizes the Portland-Vancouver region in support of healthy and resilient communities.

The Mapps Amendment #1 does not require any specific changes to existing programs—but, so importantly, does allow for further discussion about how to best organize the City's environmental programs. We strongly support the idea that a new Bureau of Natural Resources could advance all of our mutual goals much more effectively than the current structure or other proposed structures. A new bureau provides an exciting and much-needed opportunity to move past the status quo in our natural resource protection, climate resilience strategies, urban wildlife conservation, and advancement of the health of our communities.

But in order for a new Bureau of Natural Resources to truly meet environmental and community needs, the following must be prioritized:

- A new Bureau of Natural Resources must be adequately funded. The City must present a robust and realistic funding structure to ensure that the new bureau can hit the ground running and remain economically sustainable over time.
- A new Bureau of Natural Resources must have real authority to impact priorities, programs and policies within other infrastructure bureaus such as the Bureau of Environmental Services, Water Bureau, Bureau of Transportation and Portland Parks and Recreation. A new Bureau of Natural Resources must have a strong Policy and Strategy Unit that is directly connected to decision-making at existing infrastructure bureaus, such that it is able integrate green strategies into the activities of the bureaus that build our roads, sewers, surface water projects, parks and other infrastructure.



- Careful consideration must be given to which environmental programs are housed within this new bureau, and it must be invested from the start with a true commitment to accelerate protection and restoration of natural resources across our urban landscape.

Thank you for your time.

Tara Wilkinson, Co-Director  
The Intertwine Alliance

